

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00873 250157Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /093 W

-----031161 251004Z /10

R 240930Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9712

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 0873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD,

SUBJECT: UNCTAD THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON RUBBER FEBRUARY 27-
MARCH 3

REF: STATE 044156

1. REFTEL WAS DISCUSSED WITH NGIAM KEE JIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, MORNING FEBRUARY 23. NGIAM, WHO REPRESENTED THE GOS AT THE DECEMBER 77 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE TALKS, PREDICTED THAT THE U.S. DECISION TO NEGOTIATE FOR A NATURAL RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES. NGIAM SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ANRPC IS MOVING AHEAD WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS OWN BUFFER STOCK ARRANGEMENT, THE ANRPC WOULD PREFER AN UNCTAD-MANAGED PRICE STABILIZATION PROGRAM IF THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES CAN REALIZE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME BENEFITS AS WOULD ACCRUE UNDER ANRPC MANAGEMENT.

2. ON FEBRUARY 21 EMBOFFS DISCUSSED THE ANRPC BUFFER STOCK SCHEME WITH TAN TONG HAN LEE RUBBER COMPANY LTD. MANAGER AND RUBBER ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GNOH CHANG
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 00873 250157Z

HOCK. BOTH MEN AGREED THAT THE ANRPC IS FAST REALIZING THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN MANAGING A PRICE STABILIZATION PROGRAM. THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN, AND ONE THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE READILY SOLVABLE, IS THE SELECTION OF A BUFFER STOCK MANAGER. DURING THE JANUARY 78 INITIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER COUNCIL, BASIC QUESTIONS, SUCH A SALARY, QUALIFICATIONS, NATIONALITY OF THE MANAGER, APPARENTLY WERE

ARGUED HEATEDLY WITH NO RESOLUTION.

3. SINGAPORE WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3
TALKS BY ITS MISSION IN GENEVA AND TWO OFFICERS FROM THE DEPART-
MENT OF TRADE. NGIAM DID NOT DISCUSS ANY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS
GIVEN TO THE GOS DELEGATION, BUT ACCORDING TO NGIAM THEY CAN
BE EXPECTED TO PUCH FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON A PRICE STABILIZA-
TION BUFFER STOCK SCHEME.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: RUBBER, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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